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NOTICE.

In the present critical position of affairs, when any reference to political conditions may hurt national susceptibilities, it must be clearly stated that the International Woman Suffrage Alliance maintains a strictly neutral attitude, and is only responsible for its official announcements. Reports from affiliated societies are inserted on the responsibility of the society contributing them. Other articles are published as being of general interest to our readers, and responsibility for them rests solely with their signatories.

BY-LAW.

"The I.W.S.A., by mutual consent of its auxiliaries, stands pledged to preserve absolute neutrality on all questions that are strictly national."

IS INTERNATIONALISM DEAD?

Since the war severed friendly relations between European nations, many bitter and disillusioned remarks have been made about internationalism. Many even of those who sometimes frequented international congresses and shared in the hospitality generously offered by one country to others, have lost faith, and join in the chorus of those who never sympathised with our ideals, and say internationalism has failed. The constant repetition of this, as of any other parrot cry, acts on others by suggestion, and like, so many evil prognostications, tends, unless combated, to bring about its own verification.

Let us examine it a little more closely. What are the ideals of internationalism in general, and of the women's international movement in particular; and what are the alternatives? Has internationalism ever prevailed; and, if not, how can it be said to have failed? Has internationalism brought about the world catastrophe? Has it promoted the spirit which caused it, or has it striven persistently against the forces which have brought about war? Internationalism is the feeling and belief that humanity is a stronger bond than mere racial and political boundaries; that underlying all superficial barriers is the brotherhood of man; that especially in the Western world a common civilisation unites men, and that their interdependence and mutual obligations can and should be a means of uniting them for the furtherance of the joint tasks of civilisation; that no motives for quarrel should lead men to war and the destruction of that civilisation which is their common heritage and possession; and that co-operation should be their object and motive, not destruction.

What is the alternative to this gospel of peaceful development, mutual help and fruitful intercourse? The alternative is race hatred and national jealousy, leading to tariffs, militarism, armaments, crushing taxation, restricted intercourse, mutual butchery, and the ruin of all progress.

Which of the two ideals has triumphed for the moment, and why?

The second undoubtedly, and because the first ideal was not strongly enough supported. If all the energy and capital had been devoted to the former that has been applied to the latter, Europe would to-day present a very different spectacle.

But even in the darkest hour of human history let us not lose faith in our ideals. Internationalism is not dead; it remains an ideal as worthy of our devotion as ever, and waiting for the fumes to clear from men's brains for them to recognise it as the only escape from barbarism. In the future we may expect our ideal and principle to triumph much more than in the past. Thousands of people, hitherto indifferent, will be roused to an interest in internationalism. Just as surely as "no man liveth to himself," no country can now live to itself; co-operation is the law of life.

Women's part in internationalism has been a growing one, and will continue to grow in future. Even the war, which has destroyed so much, has not destroyed it. In all countries women are faced with similar problems, industrial, social, ethical, political, and in nearly all they are, even in the land of their birth, helots, whose services are required, whose property is taxed, who are amenable to all laws, but who must be dumb and helpless in their country's government. In every country they are pouring out their health and strength in the service of the State, and warning voices are raised in the industrial world that their ready services will be exploited to the detriment of the whole body of workers. Public opinion and governments must learn that if women are to act with all the responsibilities of citizens they must be given the rights of citizens. In a terrible passage, full of the deepest insight, Tolstoi showed how man had brought upon himself overwhelming punishment by his treatment of women, and that the only remedy was to give them the equal and just rights of human beings.

Women of all countries have this task before them. Unenfranchised, unequal before the law, suffering from innumerable disabilities and injustices, they will preserve the bond of their common sisterhood. The ideal which unites them is a greater one than any for which men have fought; it is no less than the spiritual freedom of half the human race. The immemorial; the world-wide wrongs of women transcend those that have ever inspired warriors or poets; no mere national wrongs can touch them in duration or extent.

European and American women owe it to their sisters in Asia and Africa to devote their whole energies to the struggle for emancipation; every step gained helps the women of every other country.

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Within the great federation of free self-governing communities comprised in the British Empire, Woman Suffrage is extending; it has now taken root in the great Dominion of Canada, and will, we know, spread to other provinces. This, again, must react on South Africa, even on India, and the Hindu woman in the harem may get a new gleam of hope. This ray of light brightens the gloom now enveloping a great part of the world, and spurs us on to cling more closely than ever to our faith in the international women's movement.

MARY SHEEPSHANKS.

FRANCE.

The *Union Française pour le suffrage des femmes*, affiliated to the International Alliance for Women's Suffrage, held its annual congress on April 20, 1916, in the hall of la Vie Féminine 88 Avenue des Champs Elysées. No congress was held in 1915.

The President (Mme. de Witt Schlumberger), in opening the congress, began her address by a tribute of regret and admiration to the members of the Union fallen in the service of their country, and in particular M. du Breuil de Saint Germain, the deeply regretted member of the Central French Committee, and vice-president of the International Men's League for Women's Suffrage, and Mme. Pellerin, delegate of the U.F.S.F. at Longuyon, killed at her post as a nurse. The President congratulated the Union on the strength of mind of its members which enabled it to meet in spite of the sufferings, the preoccupations, and the multifarious works resulting from the war. She continued as follows:—

The Press has called the women admirable. We simply think that they have done their duty as citizens, and what we should have expected from them.

"I am, however, not one of those who say that our duties ought to make us forget the rights that we claim—rights we need in order to accomplish fully our duties as thinking women understand them. We even think that, having recognised the necessity for Women's Suffrage for the improvement of human society, it is our duty to continue to claim this right.

"I am not even one of the many who think that the question of Woman Suffrage is not pressing at the moment, and does not fit in with the daily preoccupation and anguish of the war. It goes without saying that this is not a time for Suffrage meetings; every one of us has more pressing duties, and we have certainly shown by our actions that we understand the situation; but, on the other hand, do not let us commit the mistake of thinking there is no connection between the war and the rights that we claim.

"I am struck, on the contrary, by the way in which the demand for Suffrage, based on the principle of justice and on the affirmation that force must not triumph over right, harmonises with the preoccupations of the war. This principle of right is at the root of all the present struggle between the peoples.

"We must recognise that the cause of Women's Suffrage can only be founded on justice: it is the pivot on which the whole question turns. Therefore, everything which tends to bring about the triumph of the imponderable forces of right and justice, and which will diminish the prestige of violent and material force, will serve the cause of women and bring its success nearer. Everything that will accustom people and

individuals to take justice as the starting-point of their actions will be a factor favourable to our cause.

"Our meeting to-day, by affirming the vitality of our faith in the principles of right and justice, has a particular importance; it is an emanation of the moral force of our country. May we in leaving here send to the front new streams of courage and enthusiasm, more and more powerful, and worthy to sustain our fighters.

"We desire success, not to establish in the world after the war the militarism of the Allies in place of German militarism, but to prepare the pacific organisation of Europe, which is what we aim at, and for which we think women should work effectually."

After the reading and discussion of the reports, the following resolutions were adopted. We classify them here in two categories, although no classification was made in the congress.

1. National resolutions.
2. Resolutions with an international interest.

NATIONAL RESOLUTIONS.

The *Union Française pour le suffrage des femmes*, which federates more than 80 feminist groups, adopted the following resolutions at its congress on the 20th April, 1916:—

REPORT OF MME. PICHON-LANDRY.

Guardianship and Family Councils.

That the Senate should vote as soon as possible the Bill of M. Viollette, adopted on the 25th July, 1915, by the Chamber, with the amendments proposed by the feminist societies (National Council of French Women and the Fraternal Union of Women), which gives women the right to be guardians and members of family councils.

Legitimation of Natural Children.

That the Senate should vote as soon as possible the Bill of M. Viollette, adopted by the Chamber on December 3rd, 1915, the object of which is to legitimise natural children whose father has died in the service of his country, when the correspondence and other circumstances show a common wish on the part of both parents to legitimise the child.

Simplification of Marriage.

Considering the moral and social interest of the nation, Considering the interest of the unmarried wives (*compagnes*) of the mobilised men and their children, the Congress resolves:

That all possible facilities should be given to the marriages of the mobilised men.

REPORT OF MME. GRINBERG (Advocate at the Court of Appeal).
Resolutions in Regard to Widows' Pensions, Orphans, Relations in the Direct Line.

That in the case of re-marriage the pension awarded to the widow of a soldier should be withdrawn from her, to be reinvested, *in toto*, for the children until their majority, or replaced by a capital representing five years' annuity if there are no children.

That an increase of Fs. 200 should be added to the widow's pension per orphan, until the age of 16 years.

That the parents (father or mother indiscriminately), grandfather or grandmother, should receive the benefit of a pension, even when there is a widow with or without children, this to be a life pension equal to half a widow's pension, in the case of one, and to three-quarters of a widow's pension in the case of two conjointly.

That the pension thus granted should only exclude pensions to working women and relief to the aged when it is more than Fs. 360.

That women who can prove they have lived three years with a mobilised man up to August, 1914, should receive the benefits of a widow's pension, provided they have children or are without means of subsistence, judgment in the matter to be left to the civil tribunal sitting in council on application.

REPORT OF MME. PAULINE REBOUR.

Administrative Commissions.

The Congress of the *Union Française pour le suffrage des femmes* empowers its Central Committee to use its influence with Parliament and the public authorities for the appointment of women on administrative commissions.

It expresses the hope that the action already taken by several branches of the Union should become more general, and extend to all the Departments.

That the branches should propose competent and able candidates, whose presence on committees up till now exclusively masculine should prove that women deserve to be associated with the administration and direction of the country.

REPORT OF MME. POIRIER.

The Fight Against Alcoholism.

I. The Union will co-operate with the anti-alcoholic societies to obtain from Parliament:

- (1) The withdrawal of the licences of the distillers.
- (2) The regulating of the manufacture and sale of spirits.

II. The Union, more than ever persuaded that the entrance of women into political life would put an end to the reign of alcoholism, will continue the Suffrage and anti-alcoholic campaign simultaneously.

III. The Union will continue to unite with the anti-alcoholic societies to ensure the right application of the already existing laws.

IV. It will continue its work of propaganda for the creation of soldiers' clubs to continue in existence after the war.

V. It will support the societies for cheap tenement houses, sanitary and roomy, the spread of social work, for the improvement of the condition of the working-class.

VI. It will encourage measures for the anti-alcoholic education of children at school and at home.

VII. Finally, the *Union Française pour le suffrage des femmes* asks its members to preach by example, not only in abstaining themselves from alcoholic drink, but in never offering in their homes "the little glass of alcohol" to their guests.

REPORT OF MME. CLEMENT (Professor at the Girls' School, Versailles).

Women's Education.

That the preparation for matriculation should be substituted regularly in all girls' schools for that for the diploma, so as to give women facilities for entering upon advanced studies and careers, at the same time putting into practice the principle, "For equal minds equal culture."

Repopulation Resolution.

I. To support with all moral force, while waiting for the time when it can use all its political power, all laws tending to facilitate and to increase births, to protect the mothers and their children.

II. To conduct a campaign, in union with all the branches whose object is more special, to fight alcoholism, prostitution, and to ensure healthy dwellings for large families.

III. To give to girls and boys an education tending to an equal moral standard for both sexes, and to develop in both the natural desire for children and the wish for the survival of their country.

IV. To spread amongst the masses, and in primary and secondary schools, the principles of puericulture, the knowledge of which can alone assure the quality of the race.

A resolution, moved by Mme. Marya Cheliga, with regard to the importance of the deposits that the women can make at the Mont-de-Piété, was also adopted.

RESOLUTIONS HAVING AN INTERNATIONAL INTEREST.

REPORT OF MME. GRINBERG (Advocate at the Court of Appeal, Paris).

Nationality of Married Women Resolution.

I. That the French or foreign woman who marries first a foreigner, then a Frenchman, should keep her original nationality, unless she has an express wish to be naturalised in conformity with the rules of the country to which she desires to belong.

II. That the Frenchwoman who has married a foreigner, and the foreign woman who has married a Frenchman, should have the right, in the case where they have given up their original nationality, to follow that of their husband, to recover the nationality lost by marriage in conformity with the laws of the country to which they desire to belong.

REPORT OF MME. BIGOT, General Secretary of the *Fédération Féministe Universitaire.**Equal Pay Resolution.*

Considering that this terrible war, in which the women of all nations often suffer no less than the men, will have consequences which must be foreseen, henceforth, if one wishes to ward off what is daily threatening us more and more;

Considering that destruction by thousands of the active men of the different countries in conflict obliges, henceforward, and will oblige industry still more, to have recourse to an unusual amount of female labour;

Considering that every time woman has penetrated into the industries which up till then had been closed to her, a lowering of the level of wages has always been the consequence,

The women must understand that *everywhere* where they are called to replace men, it is their *interest* as much as their *duty* to demand equal pay for equal work.

They ought to demand it:

Because it is a matter of elementary justice that effort should be rewarded according to its intrinsic value, and not according to sex.

Because it is a matter of personal interest.

Because it is a duty towards other women (since it has been shown that the acceptance of a reduced wage inevitably brings with it a lowering of all the wages in the profession).

Because it is a duty to the fighters, who should not find on their return worse conditions of labour than those prevailing before the war.

We therefore beg the women of all nations,

(1) To make in their respective countries methodical inquiry into the rate of wages for men and women.¹

(2) To influence the professional people, feminists, etc., to form a powerful movement in favour of equality of pay, in view of obtaining from their Governments, at the moment of the signing of the Peace Treaty, the establishment of international conventions, for the purpose of within a limited and proper time assuring respect of the following principle:

The wage should be for a definite piece of work, absolutely independent of the sex of the individual who executes it.

Another resolution moved by Mlle. Bigot was adopted, of which the following is the substance:

DEMAND FOR WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION AT THE PEACE CONFERENCE AFTER THE WAR.

That the women of the belligerent countries who have suffered so much by the war, and who through long years will bear the consequences of it, petition their respective Governments that they should take part in the diplomatic conferences which will take place with a view to the re-establishment of peace, and that they should be represented by one or two women.

They demand it as much in reparation of the past, which has kept them in subordination, as a pledge of freedom in the future. Above all, they demand it to prevent the return of such conflagrations.

CINEMA FILMS.

The very interesting report of Mme. Legrand Falco on the cinemas, *à propos* of the bad influence of certain films on youth, and reforms on this subject, for which it was necessary to petition the authorities, has resulted in the nomination of a special commission. The work of this commission is to study from different aspects the question of cinemas, which is of a very complex nature, touching very different interests, reflecting upon several countries, many films being international. The moving of a resolution was then adjourned.

We would repeat, as we have already said above, that three at least of the resolutions voted upon by the National Congress of the *Union Française pour le suffrage des femmes* would be of international effect, and that they interest the women of all countries just as much as the question of cinemas.

*Resolution as to the Nationality of Married Women.**Resolution with Regard to Equal Pay.**Inquiry in Regard to Cinemas.**Resolution Concerning the Presence of Women in the Conference for the Establishment of a Peace Treaty.*

The two first of these questions are already being discussed in different countries, and the resolution with regard to the participation of women in the Peace Conference is only possible if the women of all the other belligerent countries take the same step in regard to their Governments.

Perhaps the *Union Française* will decide to write to the President of the Alliance, Mrs. Catt, to ask her to put these different questions before the countries affiliated to the Alliance? The circularisation of these inquiries would bring light to bear upon these difficult problems.

DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER.

The President, *Union Française pour le suffrage des femmes*. (Affiliated to the I.W.S.A.).

"LA FRANÇAISE."

Three subjects share the first place in the current numbers of the *Française*—repopulation, professions for girls, and temperance, all of them questions of the first importance to women, and now more urgent than ever.

¹For France, apply for the questionnaire prepared by the Labour Section of the National Council of French Women (53 rue Scheffer, Paris).

WOMEN AND WAR: MEETING OF THE LIGUE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME.

At the meeting of the Ligue des Droits de l'Homme on April 15, presided over by M. Ferdinand Buisson, warm tributes were paid to the work done by Frenchwomen since the war. M. Buisson said: "The virile energy displayed by Frenchwomen is a great national fact. For two years the Frenchwoman of all classes and parties has risen to the tragic occasion. In the occupied regions she has replaced man, and faced the enemy. But, above all, Frenchwomen have shown a wonderful gift for organisation. . . ." Then follows an account of all the work organised by women, for soldiers, for wounded, for refugees, etc.

Mlle. Clément, of the Versailles Lycée, dwelt on the need for new commercial openings for women, and cited the example of America.

Mme. Brunschvicg, of the Union Française pour le suffrage des femmes, urged the necessity for enfranchising women and especially of beginning with the municipal vote, which would enable women to combat alcoholism and depopulation.

Mme. Maria Vérone protested against the exclusion of women from the committees on guardianship. The Chamber has voted for the admission of women, but the Senate delays.

A COMMERCIAL HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

On May 1 a Commercial High School was opened for girls at 292, Rue Saint Martin, under the auspices of the Association des Institutrices Diplômées. The course of study is for one year, and the examination and diploma will be the equivalent of that for boys; the teachers will be the same as in the boys' high schools.

German Tribute to a French Woman.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* of April 15, 1916, publishes in a "Letter from the Front" an account of the work of Isabelle Frévin, Mayoress of Guillemont, a little French town now in German occupation, which has been the scene of repeated struggles between the French and the Germans, and is now only a short distance within the German lines. Little by little it has been stripped of all it possessed; first the youth of military age, then the corn, straw, hay, potatoes, sugar beet, wood, cattle, and even the able-bodied inhabitants, are requisitioned by the Germans. Now 300 of the weak and decrepit are all that remain of the population. The mayor is a helpless wreck, and the whole burden of responsibility rests upon the shoulders of his plucky wife—a woman of thirty. Her house, together with the others, is occupied by the military, all save one room, which serves as a bedroom, kitchen, everything, to herself, her husband and children, and in addition to six other poor women and their children, who have lost their all in the war, and are now pensioners of her generosity.

At break of day her work begins with the martialling of all the inhabitants of the little town before the Germans, and dispatching them to the daily tasks imposed by their conquerors. The German officer knows little French, the Mayoress no German, but yet she succeeds in playing the part of mediator, obtaining temporary exemption for the all too unfit, easing burdens as far as she can. Her next task takes her with the army doctor on his rounds from house to house, seeing that every patient has attendance, food, and warmth. Then comes the time for hearing the grievances of the civilians—complaints that there is an insufficiency of potatoes and flour, that fodder is lacking for the cows,—and in all these matters she has to try to wrest concessions from the military governor of the district.

The afternoon is filled up in much the same way, rounding up the tasks not completed in the morning, and, with the consent of the military, putting in a visit to the neighbouring parish of Guichy, where the houses are roofless and there is no bread, and where too often her reward is rudeness from the inhabitants, difficulties with the German authorities, and the caressing hum of French shells about her ears.

In the intervals of this she manages to do the cooking and the work of her household, and keep in order her boys, who are profiting by their immunity from school all this time, and, to crown all, she finds time to tend the graves of the French and German dead.

The writer of the article says that amongst the heroes of the war who deserve a lasting memorial, not the least is Mme. Frévin, the intrepid Mayoress of Guillemont.

GERMANY.

NEW AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.

The two German Suffrage Societies, *Deutscher Verband für Frauenstimmrecht* and *Deutsche Vereinigung für Frauenstimmrecht*, have united under the title of *Deutscher Reichsverband für Frauenstimmrecht*, as was mentioned in the April number of *Jus Suffragii*, and have now adopted the *Staatsbürgerin* as their official organ.

The *Reichsverband* takes as its objects:—

(a) To obtain equal national and communal rights for women and men, especially Suffrage and eligibility (active and passive Suffrage) for all legislative and administrative bodies.

(b) To urge such women as have political or other rights in any German country, community, or class, to use their rights.

(c) To stimulate women's activity in all spheres of political and social life by widening their knowledge of politics.

The principles of the *Reichsverband* are as follows:—

(1) The *Reichsverband* supports no political party, nor any particular trend of the women's movement. It aims, on the contrary, at uniting all who take their stand for the political equality of women, whatever their political or religious opinions may be.

(2) The *Reichsverband* does not intend to support any one class of women, but the interests of all women. It will only consider its goal reached when all German women enjoy full political and communal rights.

—CLARA HEINEMANN, in *Die Staatsbürgerin*.

THE DECREASE OF THE BIRTH-RATE.

The birth-rate in Germany has fallen from 40.9 per 1,000 in 1876 to 28.2 per 1,000 in 1912. Although the Reichstag has dealt very fully with the subject, they failed to touch the core of the matter. The important point is to make women willing, even eager, to be mothers. As long as so many thousands of women of the working classes have to work right through the time of their pregnancy, and as long as they have to struggle through their confinement without any help, so long most women will not become mothers of their own free will.

Our first and most important duty is to substitute a "national insurance of motherhood" for the existing "Imperial maternity benefit," in order to ensure for the prospective mother a decent and care-free pregnancy, a healthy confinement, and lack of sordid worry till she is fit to resume her normal life.

It is from this point of view that influential people should also be made to look at the decrease of the birth-rate. The women's point of view should for once be taken into consideration, and women should be asked to co-operate both intellectually and spiritually in solving this most vital of questions.—From the *Staatsbürgerin*.

The *Staatsbürgerin* for May contains much that is interesting and important, especially the articles by Frau Marie Stritt on the recent petition from the Antis to the Prussian Upper House protesting against any granting of civil rights to women, and an article by Anna Pappritz, the well-known Abolitionist, on the increase of prostitution and the danger of the introduction of reactionary legislation directed against women.

ANTIS IN THE PRUSSIAN UPPER HOUSE.

The *Bund gegen Frauenemancipation* has united with a number of other societies—namely, the German Union of Treasury Officials (*der deutsche Kanzleibeamtenbund*), the Society of Law Employees (*der Verband deutscher Rechtsanwalts und Notariatsbureaubeamten*), the Society of German Military Cadets (*der Bund deutscher Militär anwärter*), the Pan-German League (*der Alldeutsche Verband*), and the Union of Saxon Railway Officials (*der Verband sächsische mittlerer Eisenbahnbeamten*), under the leadership of Professor Dr. Langemann, of Kiel. They sent in a petition to the Prussian Upper House in favour of excluding women from the communal vote. This petition was received by the Upper House on March 31, and the reporter on it raised the point that women had not given an occasion for a discussion of this matter at present, and there had been no reason for the Antis to take up the question. Frau Stritt, in discussing this petition, says that in a way the Suffragists have cause for satisfaction, as experience shows that the Antis in any country become active in proportion to the growing success of the Suffrage movement, and she interprets this petition to the

Upper House as being a testimony to the favourable change in public opinion towards the women's claims caused by their activities since the war. The Upper House has referred the petition to the Government, following the precedent of the action taken to women's petitions for the communal vote to the Lower House in 1912. Frau Stritt remarks that German women have not been accustomed to having their claims treated with understanding and knowledge, and that the usual motto of those in authority has been: "We do not know the movement, but we disapprove of it." The usual attitude as to women's claims has been: Women have to do this, and they have to be so and so; they belong here and there; and their claims have been treated entirely according to the personal wishes and tastes of the individual man, and not met with argument. On this occasion, Dr. Neuber, of Kiel, military head physician, supported the petition in the old-fashioned way, and even exceeded all former opposition, and gave a typical example of the Anti point of view. He spoke on behalf of friends in his own party, and said that women's claims to communal rights led to the demand for political rights. He gave Denmark as an example, but did not seem to have heard of Finland, Norway, Iceland, and Sweden (which has had the communal vote since 1862, and eligibility since 1909). After extraordinary references to North America and Australia, he proceeded to considerations of a general kind. The following is an example of his argument. "Nature has given woman a quite different task from that of man, and their efforts to take up masculine activities as some women wish leads them away from the path which they should follow. Women are much more dependent on their physical condition than men, especially in their monthly periods, and in the times in which they are pregnant, and afterwards when nursing their babies. Women have to devote their strength to motherhood, and this fact must be emphasised in view of the regrettable decline in the birth-rate. Women must bring up their daughters to be virtuous and industrious housewives, and their sons to be capable youths and men who can defend hearth and home, wife and child, and their fatherland. The women's movement has an international character and promotes social democracy, which promises freedom and equality to women. It leads woman to the political arena, where she does not belong. Women are led away from the path laid out for them by their Creator, to the detriment of posterity. This separation from domestic work and entering into men's professions injures family life. Moreover, women's entry into men's occupations has not answered expectations. Even physically they remain behind the men. (Here the speaker cited comparative sickness rates for men and women.) Very seldom do we hear of scientific achievements by women, which are insignificant in comparison with the number of women of academic education. On the other hand, German women have accomplished much in charitable work, as Sisters of Mercy, as Nurses, and in the care of the wounded and families of the fallen. But, in return for what they have done, to give them the vote, that we can never permit. An honourable member of this House with whom I have discussed the matter says that Woman Suffrage can never be granted as long as the Prussian Upper House exists. That is also my opinion. We must oppose anything that could lead to it. I have just read the news from Norway that the Storting has given to women the right to become Ministers of State. (Hilarious laughter.) It has come to this. That is the end. But all honour to our women." The orator ended with a poetic quotation: "Strength is the glory of man who preserves the dignity of the law, but woman rules only through her charm."

Frau Stritt comments that it might be asked whether the communal vote is a natural task of man, and how far the exercise of this right could disturb woman in the critical periods cited, and how far she would be injured by them; why mothers without communal right should be better able than those with communal rights to educate their sons and daughters, etc.; whether the percentage of men with academic education who accomplish great scientific work is greater, and how much greater, than the analogous percentage of women; why self-sacrificing unpaid charitable work is more suited to feminine organism and less injurious to society than paid women's work; why the orator prophesies especially for German women the loss of their natural charm through the communal vote when such terrible consequences have not followed in the 37 States in which it has been introduced? The speaker, however, seems to have some curious information, for he informed the House that in the U.S.A. seven separate States which had Woman Suffrage had recently abolished it by a great majority, and he

prophesied that the same desirable end would shortly be achieved in Australia, where from four to five hundred societies, with a membership of 60,000 women, have been formed to deprive women of their vote! It is hardly necessary to say that these "facts" are entirely and absolutely false. Frau Stritt proceeds to give the actual facts for countries where women vote, which it is unnecessary to repeat to readers of *Jus Suffragii*, and to give the resolutions passed by the Australian Parliament, showing the good results of Woman Suffrage. The reporter, Oberbürgermeister Matting, and Dr. Durnburg opposed Dr. Neuber, and Dr. Durnburg remarked that such an attitude was very poor thanks if all kinds of declarations were made without hearing women's views about them, but no one asked Dr. Neuber for the sources of his extraordinary information from the New World, and those false statements were allowed to go unchallenged, and spread by the Press as facts throughout the country. German Suffragists will for years to come hear of the sad example of the seven American States who, on account of their sad experience of Woman Suffrage, were obliged to abolish it!

PROSTITUTION AND REGULATION DURING AND AFTER THE WAR.
By Anna Pappritz.

The German Abolitionist movement was making good progress before the war. This progress was shown, not so much in what was actually accomplished, but in a gradual change of view. It was generally felt that the present system of State Regulation of Vice had not been successful from the hygienic point of view, and even those who supported regulation wished to see reforms in it. The attitude to the houses of bad character had also changed, and it was gradually being recognised that they encouraged instead of checked prostitution, that they were the chief sources of the traffic in women, and that they led to a shameful inhuman exploitation of the unfortunate women who lived in them. The German Society against Venereal Disease had arranged a great conference of experts for the autumn of 1914, at which all these questions were to be discussed. Then came the war, and the conference was postponed. The war has had an unexpected influence on the views of men towards the problem of prostitution, and we are now faced with the danger of a return to absolutely mediæval conditions. Prostitution is an inevitable accompaniment of war. A number of considerations—physiological, psychological, and social—cause its increase. It is impossible to prevent our troops having recourse to prostitution, and the authorities directed their attention to limit venereal disease. In the war zone brothels were established and subjected to hygienic control. The troops themselves were kept under regular medical supervision in order to prevent the spread of disease, and to cure it through early treatment. The success of these measures, according to numerous military doctors, has been very favourable. I will not consider here whether this good result might not have been obtained in other ways. War brings us many hardships that we have to accept, much that does not accord with our ideals, but now voices are raised to continue these measures in peace time; severe regulation and shutting up in regulated houses are advocated throughout the country, and it seems as if there were a danger of returning to the worst form of brothels. Women must understand what an attack this constitutes on their personal freedom, what humiliation and enslavement of their sex threatens them. Nothing hinders the social and ethical advance of women more than these exceptional laws which would enslave thousands of women in the most disgraceful sex slavery, stigmatise them as chattels, and degrade them to be the tools of men.

It must be foreseen that prostitution will considerably increase after peace is declared, because, naturally, an increased demand will lead to an increased supply. After the deprivations of the campaign, men will be greedy for pleasure, and the unemployment which must come for women after peace will force many women on the streets. We must make up our minds to an increase of prostitution, and must think of ways and means to limit it. Many regulationists say that Abolitionists are against all State interference. This is an entire misunderstanding of the facts. We oppose exceptional laws directed against the female sex alone. The good results following the control system in war were only possible because all the troops were subjected to strict supervision and examination, but it is quite impossible in peace time to extend this control to the whole male population. Every control which is only applied to the female sex must remain useless as long as the diseased man can carry the infection unhindered. The former police

doctor of Berlin, Dr. Dreuw, writes on this subject: "Regulation in its present form is doomed. It has lost every excuse for its existence, and must be replaced by a system that allows universal control of male and female persons with venereal disease in a way that can be brought into harmony with present social conditions. The present system of regulation is as inconsistent as if, for the prevention of diphtheria or cholera, only some women chosen by the police were isolated and the men were not isolated. Neither registered nor unregistered women can acquire venereal disease except from a diseased man." This is the judgment of a police doctor of the widest experience.

We Abolitionists, therefore, support a system of supervision similar to that introduced into Denmark and Norway as a result of Abolitionist propaganda, and which has given good results there. Professor Dr. Blaschko described this system admirably at the International Medical Congress in London in 1913. We Abolitionists also support a number of legislative measures, such as raising the age of protection, punishment for venereal infection, a change in Paragraph 180, State Code, enacting that the letting of rooms to prostitutes without exploiting them shall not be punishable, but that every form of exploitation, procuring, the keeping of brothels, etc., shall be most severely punished. Abolitionists for the most part are amongst the pioneers for Woman Suffrage, because they are convinced that political rights are the best weapon in the fight against every social injustice. On the other hand, the leaders and members of the Suffrage movement should remember that every step forward of women helps their movement, and that every exceptional law which stigmatises women is a drag on the wheel.

The authoress refers to her pamphlet, "What steps Abolitionists propose in place of regulation for the protection of public health and public morality."

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT.

The Federation of German women's societies has sent a petition to the Ministry of the Interior, begging them to devote attention to the development of specialised departments for women at the public labour bureaux. The petition states that the number of wage-earning women increased by three-quarters of a million between February and December, 1915. This has been accompanied by a great displacement of female labour. At the close of the war masses of women will lose their present employment, but will be forced to continue as wage earners, to support their families and often invalid husbands. Occupations hitherto reserved for women will be invaded by men whose injuries incapacitate them for heavy work.

The industrial dislocation caused by the transition from war conditions to peace necessitates careful precautions, which the present employment bureaux for women are unequal to.

Some of the evils to be guarded against are: An increase of house-industry and an influx of war widows into towns.

—From *Die Frauenfrage*.

WOMEN STUDENTS.

Four thousand eight hundred and twenty women students were registered at German universities in the second winter of the war.

GREAT BRITAIN.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

THE FUTURE OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

On May 4, Mrs. Fawcett sent the following letter to the Prime Minister, on behalf of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. Copies of this letter were also sent to Sir Edward Grey and Mr. Arthur Henderson.

DEAR MR. ASQUITH,—I am venturing once more to address you on the subject of the enfranchisement of women.

A very general rumour has prevailed since last autumn, supported by statements made by responsible persons, and by its own inherent reasonableness, that the Government will, before the General Election following the end of the war, find it necessary to deal with the franchise question in order to prevent the hardship and injustice which would arise if men who have been serving their country abroad, or in munition areas in parts of this country other than those where they usually reside, should in consequence of their patriotic service be penalised by losing their votes.

This has caused a certain amount of restlessness and anxiety among the 500 or 600 societies forming the N.U.W.S.S., as well as among other Suffrage organisations. Not, of course, that any of us are in any degree hostile to the enfranchisement

of men who have been suffering and working for our country; but it is feared that the Suffrage may be dealt with in a manner prejudicial to the future prospects of the enfranchisement of women. To allay this feeling of restlessness and anxiety, we desire to bring certain considerations before you, and to ask you for an expression of your opinion upon them.

When the Government deals with the Franchise, an opportunity will present itself of dealing with it on wider lines than by the simple removal of what may be called the accidental disqualification of a large body of the best men in the country, and we trust that you may include in your Bill clauses which would remove the disabilities under which women now labour. An Agreed Bill on these lines would, we are confident, receive a very wide measure of support throughout the country. Our movement has received very great accessions of strength during recent months, former opponents now declaring themselves on our side, or, at any rate, withdrawing their opposition. The change of tone in the Press is most marked.

These changes are mainly consequent upon the changed industrial and professional status of women, and the view has been widely expressed in a great variety of organs of public opinion that the continued exclusion of women from representation will, on these grounds, be an impossibility after the war.

If I refer to what the N.U.W.S.S. has done in the way of service to the country since the war began, it is not that I claim for it any greater degree of patriotism than has been shown practically by all women. I only mention it because I can speak with personal knowledge of it. Within two days of the declaration of war the N.U.W.S.S. determined to suspend its ordinary political activities, and to devote its organisation and money-raising powers to alleviate distress arising out of the war, and to other work calculated to sustain, as far as might be, the vital energies of the nation during the great struggle which lay before it.

In this work we have had a considerable measure of success, but I will not trouble you with any detailed recital of it. We know from our own experiences, and we trust that you also realise, that women of all classes are eager to bear their full share of the work and the suffering demanded from the country, and that wherever opportunity has been given them they have devoted themselves with whole-hearted eagerness to the national work they have found to do. The record of our own Scottish Women's Hospitals bears proof of this fact, which is now widely recognised throughout the country.

We believe that it is the recognition of the active, self-sacrificing, and efficient national service of women which has caused the recent access of strength to the movement we represent.

We should greatly value an expression of your views upon the subject of the possibility of the Government dealing with the Franchise question in the direction indicated above.

Believe me, dear Mr. Asquith, yours very faithfully,
MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

MR. ASQUITH'S REPLY.

10, Downing Street, Whitehall, S.W.

May 7, 1916.

DEAR MRS. FAWCETT,—I have received your letter of the 4th. I need not assure you how deeply my colleagues and I recognise and appreciate the magnificent contribution which the women of the United Kingdom have made to the maintenance of our country's cause.

No such legislation as you refer to is at present in contemplation; but if, and when, it should become necessary to undertake it, you may be certain that the considerations set out in your letter will be fully and impartially weighed without any prejudice from the controversies of the past.—Yours very faithfully,
H. H. ASQUITH.

REPLY FROM MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON.

1, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

May 5, 1916.

DEAR MRS. FAWCETT,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favour of the 4th, with copy of letter to the Prime Minister. My position with regard to Women's Enfranchisement is not different from what it was before. In fact, I think the case has been strengthened by the magnificent devotion of the majority of our women during this great war crisis. I may say that the Labour Party has requested me to submit certain aspects of the electoral problem by way of memoranda. When I do so, you can rely upon it that the question in which you are so much interested will not only not be overlooked, but will form a leading part of the claim we hope to put forward.

Kind regards.—Yours sincerely,
ARTHUR HENDERSON.

REPLY FROM SIR EDWARD GREY.

Foreign Office, May 9, 1916.

DEAR MADAM,—I am desired by Sir Edward Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant.

Sir Edward understands that the Prime Minister has now replied to the letter which you sent to him, and he feels that the terms of the answer will prove satisfactory to you and the Union of which you are the President.—Yours very truly,
ERIC DRUMMOND.

Since the publication of this correspondence Mr. Asquith stated in the House of Commons that he hoped shortly to make known the intention of the Government on the subject of the compilation of a new register of Parliamentary electors.

Some time ago the question was raised in the House of giving the vote to all men not otherwise qualified who were engaged in naval and military service, or who were occupied in war work.

Should this principle be embodied in any of the Government's proposals in respect to the new register, the question of Women's Suffrage will have to be dealt with and introduced by way of amendment. On the other hand, it is possible that the proposed revision of the register will deal only with the case of men already qualified, but who would under the existing provisions of the franchise law lose their votes owing to their absence from their places of residence during the qualifying period of twelve months prior to a general election. In the former case the basis of the franchise would be altered; in the latter, men electors serving their country will have their privileges secured to them. Although the N.U.W.S.S. has suspended its political propaganda, it has kept a close watch on proceedings in Parliament and on any movement which might tend to weaken or undermine the strength of the position gained for Women's Suffrage before the war, and is prepared to take prompt action in the event of any proposal being made for a further extension of the franchise which does not include women.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN PRACTICE.

Mr. Hughes, Premier of Australia, in replying to a letter from Mrs. Fawcett, refers to the success of Women's Suffrage in his country. "The women," he says, "take a very great interest in politics, and exercise the franchise to as large an extent as the men. Speaking generally, the extension of the franchise in placing men and women on a footing of political equality has been entirely satisfactory."

BRITISH WOMEN'S UNIT IN RUSSIA.

The maternity unit in Petrograd is firmly established, and openings for work of a different kind have now offered themselves. Dr. Mabel May followed up Miss Thurston's visit to Kazan, and carefully investigated conditions there and in other parts of the Province. The co-operation of the British women was cordially welcomed by the local authorities, and it is hoped that work will be begun early in June. The need for the work of the unit can hardly be exaggerated. Whole districts, covering in some cases fifty or sixty square miles, are entirely without medical aid, and there are hospitals which cannot be opened for lack of doctors.

An extensive scheme of work has been planned by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, by whom the necessary personnel will be chosen and provided as soon as possible. The authorities in Kazan have given over to the British women buildings which will be used for a children's hospital for infectious diseases and an out-patient department. In order to check the spread of disease, the British women will set up an Inspection Point, where the refugees will be examined and suspicious cases kept under observation. Two flying columns, each staffed by one doctor and one nurse, are to be provided for other parts of the district. In order to carry out this plan of work effectively, a motor ambulance will be required, and the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has undertaken to provide it.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

Miss Kathleen Burke, the organising secretary of the London Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals (London Society for Women's Suffrage) leaves America for England this month, after a very successful tour in the United States and Canada. Miss Burke has collected a sum amounting to £10,000 for the Scottish Women's Hospitals. She met with an enthusiastic reception at her meetings; her remarkable powers of oratory won the admiration of all who heard her.

The efficient organisation of the hospitals and the courage and zeal of the members of the units appear to have met with widespread recognition.

The work of the units in France and Salonika is proceeding satisfactorily. A contingent of nurses and orderlies has joined the unit in Salonika, and others are leaving shortly. The funeral of Sister Burt, who died at Salonika on April 7, was attended by all the staff of the Scottish Women's Hospital who were able to get off duty, and by many French officials. Sister Burt was accorded a full military funeral, and was laid to rest in the Anglo-French Cemetery. A simple cross, similar to those which mark the graves of fallen Frenchmen, was erected over her last resting-place. A beautiful white wreath was sent by the Direction de Santé.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE'S BIRTHDAY.

On May 12th, Florence Nightingale's birthday, a street collection in aid of the funds of the Women's Service Bureau (London Society for Women's Suffrage), the British Women's Hospital for Disabled Sailors and Soldiers and the Women's Emergency Corps, was held in London. Little coloured paper lamps were offered for sale in memory of "The Lady of the Lamp" (the name given to Florence Nightingale), and of the eminent, indispensable service she gave to her country. The statue of Florence Nightingale was decorated with flowers, and on the base of the pedestal this inscription was put up, "Women's Service, 1854-1916."

WOMEN AND WAR WORK.

The new Military Service Act will have the effect of throwing open more occupations for women, and already the training classes for women are quite filled up. Everyone is familiar now with the sight of women as postmen, ticket collectors, van drivers, omnibus and tram conductors; women as fishmongers and grocers' assistants, bank clerks, commissionaires. The movement for placing women on the land is making steady progress all over the country, and they are seen at work in the fields and farms in greater numbers than usual.

The Women's National Land Service Corps gives very efficient help in recruiting and training educated women and girls, and certain colleges and selected farms are training women for skilled occupations and the duties of supervisors.

The services of educated women are specially useful on large farms, where superior mechanical equipment is placed in their hands, such as food-preparing machinery and milking machines. The question of wages is gradually adjusting itself. Competent women can command from twenty to twenty-five shillings or more per week. So far over 35,000 women have registered themselves as willing to work on the land.

WOMEN AS ARMY COOKS.

The scheme approved by the War Office for employing women as Army cooks has met with marked success. Women are now installed as cooks in permanent barracks, convalescent hospitals, rest camps, and schools of instruction. Yet another women's organisation, "The Women's Legion," is doing good work by catering for quartermasters who are in want of cooks. An instance is given in the *Times* of the promptness with which the military cooking section of the Women's Legion meets a sudden demand. A request was sent to them on a Friday for cooks to provide meals for 1,200 men on Monday. In reply twenty-four cooks were sent, who within twelve hours prepared breakfast for the number stated.

WOMEN MUNITION WORKERS.

It is estimated that there are now 300,000 women employed in munition work. The President of the Iron and Steel Institute mentioned a case as illustrating the capacity of women for performing this work. In one projectile factory, where, owing to the scarcity of skilled labour girls were employed in order to comply with the demand for accelerated production of shells, the production of these girls was in all cases more than double that of thoroughly trained mechanics working the same machines under the same conditions.

The question of the health of the women is receiving closer attention, and representations have been made from many quarters as to the evil results due to physical exhaustion.

In some cases managers have instituted a ten or fifteen minutes' break every three or four hours, giving women time to refresh themselves by a wash or preparing tea, and an hour for the hot mid-day meal. In the opinion of the well-known specialist, Dr. Mary Scharlieb, work alone never kills, though bad conditions may tend to disease and sickness. Intervals of

rest and good wholesome food are the best remedies for mental and physical fatigue. The recommendation of the Health of Munition Workers Committee, that the weekly hours of work for women and girls should not exceed the normal legal limit of sixty hours, will be given effect to by a new general order shortly to be issued.

NEW WORK FOR WOMEN.

Women are now being employed in the boot trade, and are promised the same rate of wages as the men. The College of Cordwainers is training women for this new trade. They are being taught to cut the leather for the uppers and soles, sewing, finishing, and lasting.

In some cities and towns the authorities are availing themselves more of the services of women. In one city they are allowed to drive cabs, in another women are employed as street sweepers and taxi-cab drivers; in another town 84 women are engaged as tram-drivers. An experiment has been tried of employing women as navvies for a municipal gasworks. They are paid 24s. a week for a 55-hours week—10 hours a day and a half-day on Saturday. They are given in addition free housing and 1s. 6d. for board. Their duties consist in filling barrows with coke, washing the coke, and wheeling it up a plank to its destined place. A trial is also being made of women as coke loaders at 25s. a week.

MOTHERCRAFT AS PART OF STATECRAFT.

Women are directing their energies to one of the greatest problems confronting a nation—namely, the prevention of infant mortality,—and are actively engaged in extending the maternity centres and baby clinics. Although much can be done by voluntary effort in this direction, it is hoped that local authorities will take the matter in hand.

The Public Health Committee of the London County Council are urging the Committee of the Council to use their power to its fullest extent, and to adopt a comprehensive scheme for maternity and child welfare being established throughout London.

SUCCESSORS OF A WOMAN PHARMACIST.

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society has announced that the highest award for pharmaceutical students—the Pereira Medal—has been won by Miss Ella Caird. She has also won the silver medals in botany, chemistry, practical chemistry, and materia medica. This constitutes the highest gains ever obtained by a student of this Society.

E. PALLISER.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies
(Affiliated to the I.W.S.A.).

The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

"TO WITNESS FOR GOD IN TIME OF WAR."

Workers in the poorer parts of our towns are not unfamiliar with the terrible spectacle of despair—often blind and unreasonable, but none the less pitiful. "I do not really see how there can be a Lord God Almighty," said a woman, after dwelling on some horrors which had touched her through three of her sons in the battle line. It was not an idle remark on her part, for the iron had quite evidently entered into her soul. Argument in times like these is of little use; but witness may be a great power for good, especially if it comes, as it were, unofficially, when it has a value peculiarly its own. This is the feeling which has prompted three Processions of Prayer and Intercession Services which are being organised by the Church League for Women's Suffrage, in which three Suffragan Bishops, with many of the London clergy and laity, are taking part. An interesting programme of national music has been arranged, for which a trained voluntary choir, under Mr. Martin Shaw, and Miss Rosabel Watson's well-known orchestra of men and women will be jointly responsible. These services have been fixed for May 27, June 17, and July 8, and the preachers on these respective dates will be the Bishop of Kensington, the Bishop of Stepney, and the Bishop of Willesden. The Bishop of London has sent a message wishing every blessing on this effort.

The processionists meet in St. Martin-in-the-Fields, where the Vicar, the Rev. H. R. L. Sheppard, holds a service of dedication of the work. After a short pause for prayer in Trafalgar Square, the procession marches to Hyde Park, and on the way hymns are sung of a character at once religious and national. In addition to several traditional airs, England is represented by Mr. Martin Shaw's stirring setting to the

Battle Hymn of Julia Ward Howe, "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord." No fitter melody than "Martyrs," which recalls an uncompromising and dauntless spirit of devotion, could represent Scotland; for Ireland, "St. Patrick's Breastplate" has been chosen; and for Wales the melodious air, "Rhuddlan," to which Canon Scott-Holland's "Judge eternal, throned in splendour" has been set. Kipling's "Recessional," Chesterton's "O God of earth and altar," and other national hymns are sung as the procession makes its way from Trafalgar Square, where the processionists assemble in St. Martin's Church at 3 p.m., to take part in a short preliminary service conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. H. R. L. Sheppard, until its arrival in Hyde Park at 4.30 p.m. After the Bishop's address in the Park, Tallis's beautiful "Funeral March" will be played as a requiem for our soldiers fallen on the field of battle, and the services end on a triumphant note, with the inspiring burst of song, "For all the Saints."

The procession is headed by clergy, to one of whom is entrusted the C.L.W.S. processional cross, and only two banners are carried—the Church League banner of St. Margaret, and the "Intercession Banner," with the words, "To Witness for God in Time of War." E. ANNE GILCHRIST.

The Workers' Suffrage Federation.

Our work is increasing in volume every day. In London alone during the past month we have held fifty-five outdoor and thirty-six indoor meetings. In the provinces we are making great headway, especially in Birmingham, Newcastle, Durham, and Leeds. The reason for our increase in membership is not far to seek. The fact that the Federation keeps in the forefront of its work the demand for Human Suffrage has rallied to its flag many who were never interested in the Suffrage before, but who have been brought to realise by the war and its concomitant evils the need which exists for every man and woman to have a voice in the affairs of the country. Our work, too, on behalf of sweated war workers (unfortunately, almost always women) is helping to awaken our womanhood to the value of the vote as the keystone to all our liberties.

We have much to do, also, in helping soldiers and sailors' wives and relatives to secure the allowances due to them.

The London County Council, for reasons of economy, having stopped the supply of leaves, twigs, and flowers to the London elementary schools, the Federation immediately appealed to its country members and friends, with the result that the children in East London still get their nature lessons. Our friends in the country send flowers and branches to our offices in East London, and we have arranged for them to be distributed amongst the schools.

Our Mothers' and Infant Welfare Centres are being used more extensively every day. We are afraid, as the summer approaches, that our resources may not be large enough to cope with the work which is certain to be necessary. Summer diarrhoea, we fear, will be very prevalent, owing to the decision not to water the streets in some parts of London, including the City.

Our co-operative toy factory has had its share of the spring trade, and our toys are to be seen in all the principal shops. They have been exhibited at the Women Workers' Exhibition at Knightsbridge.

On June 12 (Whit-Monday) we are arranging a children's festival in Victoria Park, E., by permission of the London County Council. There are to be sports for the boys and girls, and a baby show, prizes being given for babies at the W.S.F. clinics. In the evening we shall have a sale of work and a social. E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

AUSTRALIA.

NEW SOUTH WALES: NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

The *Woman's Journal* (Boston, Mass.) of April 29 contains news of important legislation affecting a married woman's right to nationality: "The Legislative Assembly of New South Wales recently passed a Bill to disfranchise naturalised enemy subjects during the period of the war. A significant feature of the Bill is that married women who are natural-born British subjects are not affected, even though married to enemy subjects."

WOMEN'S LIBERAL LEAGUE OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

At a meeting of the Council of the Women's Liberal League, New South Wales, held March 6, the following resolution was carried unanimously: "That the Council of the Women's

Liberal League of New South Wales, recognising the duty of Australian women to lead the movement for Woman Suffrage throughout the Empire, invite the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth to press for granting the franchise to women as essential to true democracy, and urge that the question of Women Suffrage be included in the programme of the conference to be held after the war."

CANADA.

NATIONAL EQUAL FRANCHISE UNION.

It is interesting to note that each of the Prairie Provinces which has recently granted the franchise to women has its own special title to distinction. Manitoba gave the vote first; the women of Saskatchewan will exercise it first; while those of Alberta have won the vote without the existence of any provincial organisation directly concerned in securing it. To this day the only Equal Franchise League in Alberta is the Edmonton one, but Suffrage propaganda has been carried on through the three well-known agencies—that of the Local Councils of Women, the Women's Christian Temperance Unions, and the United Farmers of Alberta. The future programme of education and law reform will be carried on through these same channels. For instance, each Local Council of Women will enlarge its Laws Committee to six members, one of whom will be appointed provincial representative, and these representatives, with the presidents of all the Local Councils, will form a Provincial Laws Committee, whose duty it will be to decide what reforms are most needed, and which will be agitated for first. This Committee will meet shortly at Calgary, and some of the subjects then to be discussed as needing immediate attention are Equal Property Rights, Equal Guardianship of Children, Red Light Abatement, Proportional Representation, and Agricultural Credits.

The international aspect of the Suffrage question is being well illustrated by the cordial interest which the women of the United States are taking in the Canadian victories. They celebrate May 1 throughout the country as Suffrage Day, and many of the banquets and other demonstrations are taking the form this year of celebrations of Canada's progress. This friendly interest and enthusiasm is much appreciated here.

The women of Quebec Province are striving once more for the very fundamental right—possessed by women everywhere else in Canada—to sit on the Boards of Education which decide how their children shall be educated. They will also continue the struggle for women to be allowed to practise law in Quebec Province, which has been once more denied them by a recent Act of the Quebec Legislature. It seems a more than usually strange act of Conservatism, in view of the present necessity for women entering every walk of life where human brains and energies are required.

The United Suffragists of Toronto, Ontario, who since the war broke out have looked after the needy mothers and babies of the city as their patriotic work, have decided to disband as a philanthropic agency, as the economic conditions which prevailed during the earlier days of the war have ceased to exist, and the general consensus of opinion is now against a Suffrage Society, as such, carrying on the ordinary relief work of the city. It is quite probable, however, that a joint committee of the five Suffrage Societies of Toronto will be formed from this patriotic committee, but its work will be confined to educational Suffrage propaganda.

EDITH LANG,

Cor. Sec., National Equal Franchise Union.

MUNICIPAL VOTES FOR MARRIED WOMEN.

An increasing number of towns have submitted the question of extending the municipal vote, hitherto confined to householders, to married women, with favourable results. Calgary led the way in this reform. Suffragists are bringing pressure to bear on their municipal council to pass a resolution in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary vote for women; they are interviewing their provincial members urging their co-operation.

A deputation of Suffragists was received by the Premier of Ontario. The deputation was headed by Dr. Margaret Gordon, Dr. Augusta Stowe Gullen, and Mrs. Flora Denison all of the Canadian Suffrage Association, who expressed their regret that whereas the boon of citizenship had been conferred on the Western women, Ontario women were still excluded.

Dr. Gordon said that if women had had the vote there would be no war. She referred to the forty successful referen-

dums in Ontario on the municipal enfranchisement of married women, and urged that both political parties should unite to bring in a good Suffrage Bill.

Premier Hearst said the question was contentious, and refused to discuss it on its merits, and would make no promises. He preferred unorganised to organised efforts (!).

SOUTH AFRICA.

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT ASSOCIATION.

APRIL 1, 1916.

The thanks of the Women's Enfranchisement Association go out to the many societies which have sent messages of deepest sympathy in the loss of the honoured president, Mrs. William Macintosh, of Port Elizabeth, whose place it will be difficult to fill. Until the yearly conference takes place on June 29, 30, and July 1, Lady Steel, of Maritzburg, has become acting president, and will preside at the conference. The twenty-seven societies affiliated within the Association continue for the most part to direct their activities towards work in connection with the war—relief, care of women and children,—and such immediate claims as spring up in any direction and are due to war conditions. On the other hand, the Association has been closely watching legislation during the current session of Parliament. Various Bills of immediate import to women have been brought forward, and the Association and affiliated leagues have been bringing pressure to bear on members of the Assembly in respect of them.

WOMEN AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

One Bill, having as its object the "reconstitution of the Law Society of the Cape Province," defines such terms as "Articles," "Articles of Association," "Notary," and "Attorney," and it is hoped that by an amendment the phrase "person of either sex" may be inserted in all definitions, thus allowing of women's articles and the general opening up of the profession of law to women. This amendment is being probably introduced this month by Mr. Macintosh.

ELECTORAL BILL AMENDMENT.

The Parliamentary Sub-committee of the W.E.A.U. have also requested Mr. Orr (Government) to propose an amendment to the Electoral Bill, which would give the Suffrage to women.

BILL TO RAISE THE AGE OF CONSENT.

Dr. Watkins' Bill for the protection of girls and mentally deficient women and for raising the age of consent passed the House of Assembly last session, and was sent on to the Senate; it was returned to the House with several amendments, which, however, have not been accepted, and the Bill, which is useful, will become law without these amendments, which would have rendered it much more valuable, and for which the enlightened minority of the House voted, but without success. The age of consent is by virtue of the Bill raised to sixteen. In connection with this Bill a letter of protest was sent by the Association to the Speaker for clearing the galleries of all women during the debate in committee of the whole House. The Bill is one of extreme importance to women, and their exclusion from the House, it is hoped, will never be attempted in future.

WOMEN AND THE SCHOOL VOTE.

In the Provincial Council of the Transvaal a measure was introduced during March, so to amend the Education Act of 1907 that all voters for school boards should be placed on the municipal basis, thereby giving the school board vote to women, and removing the present anomaly that women may sit in school boards but may not vote for them. The amendment was lost by three votes, the Labour Party and some Unionists voting for it, the Dutch members against. The Administrator refused to receive a deputation of Johannesburg women on the ground that the amendment was inadvisable on grounds of increased expenditure (which the Provincial Council is not in a position to meet), and not for Suffrage reasons. The fact remains that the Dutch members, with a few enlightened exceptions, are anti-Suffrage.

WOMEN ON JUVENILE ADVISORY BOARDS.

The Government is establishing, in connection with their Labour Bureaux, juvenile advisory boards in the principal towns to deal with the industrial career of the youth of the country after school age. The W.E.A.U. have been instrumental in influencing the Government to enlarge the scope

of the scheme and to include girls as well as boys in its operation; also, the Minister of Industries, Mr. Melan, has expressed his willingness to allow women to sit on the advisory boards, with the result that at Cape Town, Mrs. Cook, of the Women's Citizen Club, represents the W.E.A.U., and Mrs. Fuller has been nominated by the Council of Women Workers. It is expected that Durban will follow this lead by nominating women to the Board established there. It is hoped that the Advisory Boards will interest themselves in a toy-making industry for South Africa, which has been the outcome of the pioneer efforts of the Women's Reform Club of Johannesburg in this direction.

PROPOSED I.W.S.A. CONFERENCE.

The Association has expressed its willingness to co-operate in the scheme to hold a conference of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, as proposed by Sweden, in whatever place the plenipotentiaries may meet to decide the terms of peace; and, if possible, to send delegates. Several members of the Association, now in England, purpose attending the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union conference during July.

DUTCH ATTITUDE TO WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Steps are being taken to acquaint the Government, and especially the Dutch members of the House and of the Provincial Councils, with the Government Bill in Holland which, if passed, will give to women the right to sit in Parliament. This should help to modify Dutch opinion in South Africa, which is almost entirely unprogressive as regards Woman Suffrage.

BILL FOR MINIMUM WAGE FOR WOMEN.

Great interest is felt in Mr. Duncan's Bill, to be introduced during April, for the establishing of a minimum wage for women workers. This measure will receive the support of all women's societies in the Union.

Laura Ruxton, Sec., W.E.A.U.
(Affiliated to the I.W.S.A.)

HUNGARY

COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S PETITION TO PARLIAMENT.

At the last session of our Parliament there was a discussion upon the extension of the Suffrage to women, and the Hungarian Council of Women sent a petition to Parliament. This petition, referring to the manifold work which the Hungarian women have performed during the war as well as to all their sacrifices, claims the vote for women, not as a reward, but in the interest of the country and of mankind. The petition says that the miseries caused by the war will be healed quicker and more lastingly with the political help of women, and that they are convinced that women as citizens will help to end the anarchy which reigns between nations, and to do away with wars.

SOCIAL WORK.

Our Society was represented on a commission of the Labourers' Insurance Institute to inquire into different questions concerning public health, mother's insurance, venereal diseases, alcoholism, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases. We also take part in the work of the Stefanie Federation, a national federation for the protection of children. Both these institutions are following the lead of our Society in asking the Government to grant the mother's insurance, for which we petitioned about a year ago. Representatives of our Society and of the N.C.W. were also invited by the Government's trustee for the anti-venereal measures, to discuss the steps to be taken to fight it in this country.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

On the 7th of February we arranged a meeting on "The Danger of Venereal Diseases," to protest against the theory of a dual standard of morals. There were rumours of the police's intention to extend a certain form of compulsory examination to servants, which we have energetically opposed. Mrs. Szevári was the lecturer, and a maidservant gave expression to the indignation of her class. We do not know how imminent this measure of the police was, but we think that our demonstration had a good effect upon its not having been carried out.

MEETINGS AND PROPAGANDA.

On the 14th of February, Miss Vilma Hoffmann gave an interesting lecture on the Montessori method, of which she is an enthusiastic disciple.

On the 10th of March our president, Vilma Glücklich, reported before a large audience the impression of her journey

to "The Capital of a Peaceful Country." During her stay in Stockholm and Berlin she watched the work of the unemployment agencies, and expressed her hopes that our Government would create opportunities of employment by executing State works. "If the women had the vote," she said, "they could influence the members of Parliament to urge the Government to promote such measures."

On the 17th of March, Dr. Peter Agoston, professor of law at the School of Law of Nagyvárad, gave a lecture upon an ideal law for the protection of the rights of children, in opposition to the Bill to be discussed in Parliament. His very interesting lecture was but another proof that the best goodwill and the greatest studies cannot make up for the lack of representation of women.

Dr. Oszkár Szalay delivered a lecture to us on the 27th of March upon what the position of women ought to be in the administration of the country after the war. His lecture was an interesting commentary upon the narrow-mindedness of our official circles.

Dr. Gyula Ságody spoke on the 5th of April about the provision for widows and orphans in Germany, with special reference to how our widows and orphans should be provided for by farm colonies.

Week by week lectures are arranged in the country towns, where Vilma Glücklich, Mmes. Groák Szirmai, Agoston, and others are indefatigable in travelling and lecturing, principally on women's share in peace, politics, and protection of children.

On the 29th of this month we will have a memorial meeting in honour of The Hague Peace Congress of Women, which gave so strong a proof of women's international solidarity. We hope that in answer to the proposal of the Hungarian Peace Committee this day will be celebrated likewise in many countries.

Our last committee meeting decided to arrange a national congress at our annual meeting in Budapest at Whitsuntide, and we asked Mr. Szántó, the Director of the State Social Museum, to arrange an exhibition of women's work.

On the 26th of March the Social Democratic women held their Suffrage day.

"WOMEN'S JOURNAL."

To meet the demand of the great number of women whose interest was roused by our house-to-house agitation last summer, as well as by our country lectures, we are editing a paper, *Nők Lapja* (*Women's Journal*), which carries our principles into the smaller homes, and we watch with joy the success of this undertaking. The second number of this paper will appear in a few days, and we have already received many thousands of orders.

MEMORIAL TO LADY PAGET.

A scheme has been formed to found a hospital research department in the devastated parts of Northern Hungary, in grateful memory of Lady Paget's splendid work of love and mercy to the Hungarian prisoners of war who were in a typhus hospital in the Balkans.

EUGENIE MELLER MISKOLCZY, *Feministák Egyesülete*
(Affiliated to the I.W.S.A.)

Budapest, April, 1916.

NORWAY.

WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE KING'S COUNCIL (CABINET COUNCIL).

The Government of Norway proposed an amendment in the Constitution that opens for women the right to become members of His Majesty's Council, to become Ministers and also Premier Minister. The Bill was recommended by the Constitution Committee of the Storting against one vote.

The amendment was debated in the Storting on April 8. Mr. Norlöf said he would vote against the Bill; there was no practical need for giving women the right of becoming Ministers of the Cabinet, and this reform had not been claimed by the women. It is the Department of Justice that has proposed the reform. It would be no good service towards the women to carry this Bill. The same Bill was dropped two years ago.

Mr. Skaar, the spokesman of the Committee, said that the position of women as citizens is decided by the establishment of universal and equal Suffrage and eligibility. Therefore, no reason now exists to take up further discussions of this point. The proposed amendment was only a correction of the constitution, a step to bring harmony between its different paragraphs. Most likely a very long time will elapse before women are called

to be members of the Cabinet, but the admission ought to be free.

Mr. Sigurdson would vote against the Bill, as the reform was not needed. The Government had not proposed that all men may become members of the Ministry; they who do not belong to the State Church are not admitted. All men should be admitted before women are permitted to enter.

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Abrahamsur, had believed that the proposition would be carried unanimously, looking to the long series of sweeping victories that had opened the way for woman to political rights and responsibilities in our country. That there justice is not done to sectarians is no reason to do injustice to women. Moreover, a Bill is pending that opens the right of admission to sectarians. If it should fall, he would take up again the work for this cause in the Justice Department. Neither was it a decisive argument that a long time will yet elapse before a woman becomes Cabinet Minister. Nobody can know how soon it might take place.

Mr. Sigurdson would, after the Minister's declaration, vote for the amendment. It was carried with 91 votes to 14. Eighteen representatives were absent.

WOMEN IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

The Minister of Justice, in moving for the admission of women to the Council of Ministers in the name of justice, has put forward the great argument for women's rights. In these days when the doctrine of "might is right" is proclaimed both in theory and practice it is a comfort to see a glimpse of higher and better ideals.

The Elections for Parliament (Stortinget) commenced in October, 1915, and are just now finished. The official statistics of these elections are published, and we see that more than the half of the electorate (53 per cent.) were women, viz., 602,000 women entitled to vote, and 532,000 men. Of the votes cast, 55 per cent were cast by men, 45 per cent, by women. No woman member was chosen. This depends upon the present election laws; one constituency has only one representative, and, therefore, women have too great a difficulty to become elected. We desire that a constituency shall have two or more representatives, then there would be a better chance for women candidates. Notwithstanding, some women are chosen proxies or substitutes for representatives, viz., one from Bergen of the Left or Liberal party, one from Kristiania of the Right, one from Throndhjem, one of the Socialist, and one of the Right party. In case one of the representatives who has a woman proxy falls ill, or is from other reasons absent from his Parliament work, the proxy takes his seat, and we will for a shorter or longer time have a woman Member of Parliament.

WOMEN'S WAR WORK.

Since August, 1914, patriotic women have devoted themselves to national defence, especially the equipment of the Naval and Military Ambulance Service. A special society for this object was formed in 1913, and Fru Quan was on the Committee. They were much blamed, and called "gun women" by the Socialists, but since the war public opinion has changed in their favour, and the military authorities are glad of the women's help.

Recently a corps of cavalry needed eight steam cooking wagons, and appealed to the Women's Association, which in a few days provided five wagons.

A great deal of work for civil and military needs has been done by the Norsk Sanitetsforening. It has started and manages 12 homes for tuberculosis patients, one sanatorium with 120 beds, five dispensaries, many milk stations for delicate children, open-air schools, a tuberculosis sanatorium for children, and a cancer hospital with light cure.

SUFFRAGE CONGRESS.

The biennial Suffrage Congress will be held in Christiania in July.

DR. LOUISE QUAM,
Landskvindestemmeretsforening.
(Affiliated to the I.W.S.A.)

RUSSIA.

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S PROGRESS (continued).

—From the *Women's Messenger* (April).

Women may receive training at certain colleges for agriculture, and women graduates easily obtain good posts, though their position is not regarded as equal to that of men who have received identical training. The first nine women architects took their degrees in 1912, but their diplomas do not confer on them the rights and privileges which are enjoyed

by men architects. Owing to this, a woman architect is not permitted to undertake work independently, but may only be employed under a man architect. Since 1904, women are entitled to hold every position in the post and telegraph service, including that of heads of departments. Very few women have, however, hitherto been appointed to the higher and better-paid posts. In 1909 the Government prescribed that only unmarried women and widows under thirty years of age are to be admitted to the service. A female Post Office employé may continue in her employment on marriage only if she marries an employé of the same department; and if her husband should subsequently be transferred to another department his wife can only continue to serve if she succeeds in getting herself transferred too.

The Imperial Douma has recently been considering the desirability of enlarging the municipal franchise, and the Government has declared itself in favour of giving duly qualified women "active" municipal franchise. Hitherto, such women could only act as "passive" voters—i.e., through their male relatives.

The Government has refused to allow separation allowances to illegitimate children of soldiers and to their mothers. It recommends that such mothers and children should receive assistance from private philanthropic funds, as the official recognition of such families would tend to weaken the respect for the sacredness of marriage.

SWEDEN.

THE PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

The hardest resistance against Woman Suffrage in Sweden is to be found in the First Chamber, where the Conservative elements dominate. The members of the First Chamber are chosen by provincial elections, and women are allowed to vote for the candidates. It is, therefore, of the greatest value that they should use their municipal vote and gain some influence over the constitution of the First Chamber.

In order to get to know the position of the candidates to the provincial elections, the Swedish Women's National Suffrage Alliance put to the candidates the following questions: (1) Are you in favour of Suffrage for the women of Sweden? (2) Will you, in case of your election, work for such members of the First Chamber who are willing to contribute to this aim? The result of these questions was very interesting indeed. Many of the Conservatives did not answer at all, but about 25 answered an unconditional yes. Several were uncertain, and are a soil worth ploughing. Most of the Liberals and the Social Democrats have been in favour of Woman Suffrage, and their answers are followed by such supplements as "of course," "with pleasure," "by true conviction," and so on. It has been very touching to read the answers from several old peasants. Through their simple and righteous words you can gather much of their lives, toiling side by side with their wives. Slowly there has in their minds been built the reverence they owe to their women who have carried half their burdens and been their true companions through life. As they have learnt to value the work of women in the small community—the home,—so they will as well trace her influence in the big community—the State.

It is significant that they who have learnt to appreciate the working and toiling women are in favour of Woman Suffrage, but they who mostly have got to know her as a thing of luxury and a parasite will not acknowledge her right as a citizen.

It has been very useful for the women to know the point of view of their opponents, and when they start to work for their rights one of their aims will be to influence the Conservative members of the First Chamber.

G. H. E.

MARRIAGE LAWS.

A Petition from Swedish Women's Associations to the Law Revising Office (*Lagberedningen*).

In a meeting of delegates from the Scandinavian countries which took place in January last in Copenhagen, a memorandum was drafted concerning the chapter of the marriage laws, which was to be the object of immediate discussion. An agreement has now been arrived at by the officials of the Swedish women's associations who were represented in that meeting—viz., the Votes for Women Association, the Fredrika Bremer Alliance, and the Swedish Women's National League, in conjunction with the central office of the Women's Social Democratic organisation,—to the effect that the following manifesto should be signed by the president of the said associations, and addressed to the Law Revising Office:—

While of late women's status in the community has developed into one of relative independence, the law regulating the conditions of family life remains very much what it was in earlier times. Women feel it more and more as an intolerable hardship that marriage should deprive them of their economic independence, while not allowing them a sufficient influence in the education of their children. Many married women are experiencing real sufferings from the effects of a legislation reflecting the conceptions of times gone by.

On the strength of accumulated experience, and with a view to supporting the work now being carried out by the mixed commission appointed by the Scandinavian authorities for revising and unifying the family laws, the Swedish women's associations wish to place on record, as hereafter explained, some of the aims to which, in their opinion, the new legislation ought to tend.

1. The husband's trusteeship should be abolished, and the married woman should be given full authority independently to manage her affairs.

2. In order to be applicable to various conditions in life, the law should embody various possibilities of dealing with property, rendering it either common or individual, and making lawful for the parties to choose the one or the other, not only before but also after marriage.

In the case of common property, arrangements should be made for securing to the married woman her economic independence. Various methods may be applied, provided only that husband and wife be placed on the same footing of equality, as well in the case of common as of separate management of the property. The law therefore should provide for more than one system of common ownership.

Husband and wife should be bound in proportion to their relative income to contribute to the maintenance of the family and of the home, as well as to the education of the children, and to their own personal expenditure. Where the wife is not in possession of an adequate income or private property, her work in the common home should be taken into account as compensating such deficiency. Facilities should be given for obtaining legal redress in case of difficulty to obtain payment of amounts due.

3. Husband and wife should have equal shares in the parental authority over children. In cases where they cannot agree, the decision should be guided by the care for the children's welfare.

4. Disputes between husband and wife should be submitted to a court composed of both men and women.

5. If a woman marries a citizen of a foreign country, she shall not lose her own nationality so long as she lives in her own country.—Communicated by GURLI HERTZMAN-ERICSON.

Notes from the Suffrage Press.

SUFFRAGE PROGRESS.

The Annual Report of the National and Local Societies for Women's Suffrage has now been published, and it is satisfactory to note that, despite unfavourable external conditions, the interest in Women's Suffrage is still unabated. There is no falling off in membership, and several new branches have been formed in the course of the year. Members of the Associations have also taken an active part in Red Cross and other relief work, and in the peace propaganda. Amongst the 393 members of the Central Council the following trades and professions were represented in 1915: 131 principals and teachers in high schools and elementary schools, 3 teachers in State seminaries, 9 university graduates, 3 medical women, 3 authors, 2 artists, 2 managers, 1 manufacturer, 11 shopkeepers, 19 post office and bank employees, 3 photographers, 3 principals of gymnasia, 5 midwives, 1 teacher of the deaf and dumb, 3 dress-makers, 1 milliner, 1 chemist, 1 organiser, 1 farmer, 1 head clerk, 1 accountant, 1 bookbinder, and 1 telephonist.

About 500 members of the National Society for Women's Suffrage have in the course of the year occupied communal posts of responsibility, including 60 municipal councillors; 160 members have served on Old Age Pension Boards, and 60 on the committees of men's political associations. One is also serving on the Royal Law Committee, and five sit on various other Government Committees.

The lectures and public meetings arranged by the Societies have been well attended, and roused much interest. The outlook is thus hopeful, for the agitation for Women's Suffrage is being carried on with increased vigour throughout the country, and the women in rural districts are being roused

more and more to a sense of the importance of enfranchisement for their own interest.—*Rösträtt för Kvinnor.*

REFORM OF THE MARRIAGE LAWS.

The Swedish National Society for Women's Suffrage, the Frederike-Bremer Society, the National Union of Swedish Women, together with the Swedish Social Democratic women, have sent a memorial to the Swedish Law Committee, which is engaged on formulating proposals for the reform of the marriage laws, on the basis of materials collected by the Joint Commission appointed for the purpose by the Governments of the Scandinavian kingdoms.

In the preamble, the memorialists point out that although women now enjoy an extended measure of independence in public life, they are still subject to antiquated laws in all matters affecting the family, and that the changed economic conditions make an alteration in these laws urgently necessary. Great hardships are inflicted on married women by their economic dependence on the husband, and their powerlessness in all that relates to the care of the children.

The memorialists therefore urge on the Committee the necessity for the following alterations in the existing laws:—

(1) That the guardianship of the husband over the wife shall cease, and the married woman shall have full liberty of action. (By the Swedish law a woman becomes a minor on marriage.)

(2) That the laws affecting marriage shall be so amended as to ensure that both husband and wife shall contribute towards the expenses of the home, according to their respective incomes. In cases when the wife has no earned or unearned income, her work in the home shall be considered as earned income, and she shall have a legal right to a fixed proportion of her husband's income for the maintenance of the household and children, and be empowered to recover the same by law.

(3) That both parents shall have equal jurisdiction over the children.

(4) That in case of disagreement between the parents, the matter shall be referred to the local body entrusted with this duty, which body must, however, include women as well as men.

(5) That a woman who marries an alien shall retain her own nationality as long as she resides in the country of her birth.

—*Rösträtt för Kvinnor.*

MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The Society for Women's Suffrage and the Men's League for Women's Suffrage held a joint meeting at Christianstad on April 13, at which every place in the hall was occupied. The Chairman, Fröken Anna Möller, speaking on behalf of the Society for Women's Suffrage, gave a hearty welcome to the first local branch of the Men's League. Rector August Bruhn (chairman of the Christianstad branch of the Men's League) then gave an eloquent address setting forth the reasons why it was the duty of men to support the enfranchisement of women. He dwelt particularly on the need of women's influence in the future peace settlement to prevent the recurrence of the horrors which are now devastating the world. The speaker concluded by reading out the manifesto which has been issued by the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, and which runs as follows:—

"Because the cause of Women's Suffrage is a righteous cause,

"Because the State needs the co-operation of men and women in all matters relating to the laws of marriage, inheritance, the care of children, parental responsibility, religion, the care of the sick and the poor, if these matters are to be settled for the welfare of the community,

"Because the development of women themselves will be promoted by their participating in public affairs,

"Because no lasting peace can be assured between nations until women have a voice in the Government of nations,

"We consider that men ought to work without regard to political parties for the speedy enfranchisement of women on the same terms as the franchise is or may be granted to men.

"We therefore call upon the men of Christianstad and the neighbourhood to join our League, and we call upon the men in all other localities to form similar Leagues."

The proceedings concluded with a powerful speech by the artist, Ernst Norlind, on the subject, "How Can Public Opinion Influence the Peace Settlement?" Both speakers were enthusiastically applauded.—*Rösträtt för Kvinnor.*

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC WOMEN.

The Social Democratic women held their annual general meeting at Stockholm on April 10. The speakers were Marika

Stjernstedt and Edwin Björkman. A resolution was passed calling for a speedy end to the war, with all the suffering it entails for the human race, especially the women and children of the belligerent countries, and containing the following demand: "That the authority of the ruling minority which has cast the nations into this desolating war must be abolished, as the peoples have a right to decide on their own fate, and that there shall be equal rights of citizenship for men and women."

POLICE WOMEN.

The Town Council of Stockholm has voted a grant of 2,000 kroner to defray the expenses of an additional police woman.

SWEDISH CONSERVATIVES AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Fröken Hilma Borelius contributes an article to *Rösträtt för Kvinnor*, in which she deals with the attitude of Swedish Conservatives towards Women's Suffrage. Hitherto the ruling section of the Conservative Party has ignored the existence of the women's movement in the ordinary course of life, and when it has been forced upon their notice have classified it with Radicalism and Socialism. Fröken Borelius points out that this alleged Radical bias of the Suffrage party is much exaggerated. As a matter of fact, many members of the National Society for Women's Suffrage have distinctly Conservative sympathies, and there is one leading women's association, the Frederike-Bremer Society, which enjoys a high reputation amongst Conservatives for its moderate character, which, though non-political, practically works for the same objects as the Society for Women's Suffrage. There is also one definitely Conservative women's society which exists for the purpose of supporting the Conservative Party at municipal elections, whilst reserving to itself entire freedom of action in all matters which specially concern women.

Recently a call has come from a Conservative to Conservatives not to ignore the women's movement. In a pamphlet by Fröken Elba Lindencrona, a parallel is drawn between the Labour movement and the Women's Suffrage movement, and the danger is pointed out that the Conservative Party may lose touch with the latter as it has lost touch with the former. The writer is not much in sympathy with Women's Suffrage, but she recognises the fact that it has come to stay and must be reckoned with. Even though she may be thought somewhat unjust in her criticisms of the Suffrage Societies, yet it is a step forward that the attention of the Conservative Party should be drawn by one of their own adherents to the importance of the Suffrage question.

Fröken Gertrud Thorman, an elementary school teacher, has been elected town councillor of Vaxholm.

At the annual meeting of the Frederike-Bremer Society, which was held at Stockholm on April 25 and 26, Fru Karin Fjällbäck-Holmgren gave an address on the duty of women to work for equal rights of citizenship. The speaker appealed to all present to give their personal help in the struggle for Women's Suffrage, which has still to be carried on against the forces of hostility and indifference. A lively discussion followed, which led many members of the audience to express their readiness to join in the Suffrage propaganda.

—*Rösträtt för Kvinnor.*

SWITZERLAND.

"Der Bund," in reporting the new Bernese Municipal Bill, says that the extraordinary beneficent and public-spirited work done by women since the war has done much to soften opposition to women's claims. The Bill gives eligibility to women on school committees, and poor law and health committees, and for committees for the care of children.

The "Bund" points out the absurdity of excluding women from school committees, although they may be university teachers. Girls' education needs women on the education authority.

UNITED STATES.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN POLITICAL PLATFORMS.

The National American Woman Suffrage Association is directing every effort towards securing planks in the platforms of the great political parties of the United States. The Republican Party will have its national convention in Chicago on June 7, and the Democrats will meet in St. Louis on June 14, and the Association is planning to send thousands of woman delegates to these two conventions in order to secure a Woman Suffrage plank in each platform while it is being built.

Plans are now being formulated for a mammoth national parade in Chicago, with representatives from every State and every Congressional District of every State. This is Chicago's second Suffrage parade, but it will be the biggest affair of its kind that city has ever seen.

The scheme which the Missouri women have evolved to visualise for the Democratic delegates the nation-wide demand for Equal Suffrage is both unique and spectacular. Literally, the demonstration will be a "walkless parade" with the action furnished by the sprightly costumes of the "paraders" and the slogans on their banners. From the Hotel Jefferson, which will be the official headquarters of the Democratic delegates, to the Coliseum, where the convention will be held, double rows of Suffragists with gay sashes and yellow parasols will stand on guard. A similar picturesque cordon will surround the Coliseum. Not a delegate will be able to enter or leave the Convention Hall without securing some optical evidence of the fact that American women do want the vote.

THE SITUATION IN IOWA, ONE OF THE CAMPAIGN STATES.

Aside from the long months of hard work which the women of Iowa have put into their campaign for the ballot, two sound reasons exist for believing that the Suffrage amendment will be carried there by a comfortable majority on June 5. One is that the interests which ordinarily oppose Woman Suffrage have less of a grip on politics in Iowa than in any other State in the Union. The other is that the men of Iowa, as a whole, view Woman Suffrage with more equanimity and from a more practical standpoint than the average Eastern man. As a result, the general Suffrage sentiment in Iowa is of a far more healthy character to-day, a scant two months before the referendum, than it was in the East early last fall.

Opposition, of course, exists, but up to date it has not been characterised by the viciousness that besmirched certain sections of the Eastern States in the 1915 campaigns. More over, although the opponents of Woman Suffrage have sent one of their highest-priced male professionals through certain sections of the State to paint lurid word-pictures of the ruin and devastation that is supposed to exist in the States where women vote, he has left hardly a ripple in his wake. The men of Iowa do not appear to be so emotional as some of their Eastern brethren.

What is more encouraging than their lack of interest in the anti-side of the campaign, however, is the active personal interest which thousands of Iowa men are taking in the women's campaign. Under the leadership of John D. Dennison, of Des Moines, a State Men's League for Woman Suffrage has been established. Already 500 branches in as many local communities have been organised, and men speakers by the hundreds are volunteering their services during the closing weeks of the campaign.

The splendid co-operation which these men's leagues are giving the women seems to typify the attitude which the great majority of the men of the State hold towards Suffrage. In itself this is one of the most pleasing features of the campaign, for with the active support of the most prominent men in every county in the State behind them the women are practically sure of being able to bring out a big vote on June 5.

That the agricultural counties, which are in the large majority, will roll up a large favourable vote for Suffrage is almost a certainty, as the farmers of Iowa are staunch believers in votes for women, and have pledged their support to the campaign, not only individually, but through the State Grange and other farm associations. Whether the cities will "backslide" and vote against the amendment remains to be seen; but it is only fair to state that at present writing there seems to be little likelihood of such action. Certainly it is not reflected in the city newspapers, which, for the most part, are giving splendid support to the women's campaign.

Solely from the newspaper standpoint the vote in favour of Suffrage would be double that of the vote opposed in Iowa, for a recent poll of the newspapers of the entire State showed that the communities whose views they reflected were a little more than 2 to 1 in favour of the Suffrage amendment. The poll, which was conducted by the *Des Moines Capital*, was an interesting one. The editors were not asked to express their personal views on Suffrage, but to state whether or not they believed their communities were in favour of or opposed to

Suffrage. That these instructions were carried out was evidenced by the returns, there being a number of editors who explained that the sentiments reported by them were not their own sentiments but those of their subscribers.

Promising as the situation is now in Iowa, neither the men nor women workers in the State intend to slacken up in their campaigning in any way. In fact, there is a state-wide determination among the Suffragists of both sexes to increase their activities between now and June 5, so that each and every voter in the State may be reached and induced to come out and register his opinion at the polls. To carry out their plans is going to take a great deal of money, and financial help from the outside is needed. Consequently every good Suffragist who appreciates the benefits that will accrue to the cause at large from an Iowa victory this year has been earnestly requested to render whatever financial aid he can, for although the Suffrage sentiment in Iowa is excellent, there is no question but that the opponents will spend thousands of dollars to undermine it between now and June; and to defend the hard campaign which both the men and women of the State are making from the eleventh-hour opposition of those interests that fear the vote in the hands of women will require the spending of counter sums for organisation and educational purposes.

HOW WOMAN SUFFRAGE STANDS IN NEW YORK.

After four months of the hardest kind of work, during which time they have been compelled to climb obstacle after obstacle set before them by the political tricksters in the New York Legislature, the New York Suffragists now seem virtually assured of having their amendment to the State constitution submitted to another referendum of the people next year.

On April 10 the Senate passed the Whitney-Brereton Suffrage Amendment by a vote of 33 to 10. As it had already passed the lower House, this year's legislative victory is now complete. Next year's Legislature will also have to approve the amendment before it can go to a referendum, but there is little chance of an upset, owing to the strength and perseverance which the women have shown. Meanwhile some conception of what they have been up against in their fight for a 1917 referendum may be gleaned from a brief review of their legislative activities this year.

After getting their Bill reported favourably by the Judiciary Committee of the House and passed by the members of the lower House, they ran up against real trouble in the Senate Judiciary Committee. This committee, which is largely controlled by one Elon Brown, an up-State anti, disappointed the women again and again by its refusal to report the measure out. Moreover, every mean and discouraging device that Mr. Brown and his anti-followers could think of was used to break the women's nerve and induce them to relinquish their fight in the Legislature this year. A fair sample of the methods used by Senator Brown and his clique was shown when a hearing was suddenly set for the Suffrage measure on the same day that the Suffragists had chosen for their New York City Ball. The ball was being given to raise funds to carry on the legislative fight, and the anti in the Legislature evidently figured that they could injure both the ball and the Suffragists' chances at the hearing before the Senate Committee by calling the hearing for that day. When they found that the women were game and able to appear in full force at the hearing they then adjourned it to the following day, but even that did not discourage the New York women. They took an evening train back to New York, held their ball and then took a midnight train back to Albany for the next day's hearing.

Several weeks later the Senate Judiciary Committee capitulated, and reported the Bill out. An effort was then made by Senator Brown and his followers to kill it by adding an amendment to it, but this was voted down. Finally, on the night of April 6, the Suffrage amendment was taken out of general orders and placed on the third Reading Calendar for final passage by a vote of 29 to 13, but not before Senator Brown had raised his views in protest. A portion of his speech is worth quoting:—

"I love, honour, and respect woman," he said. "I recognise her in many ways as the superior of man. She peopled the earth with men, the heavens with stars, and the sea with living things. I recognise her as great and noble in the sphere which is hers by nature and consent of man. But the American woman has gone far afield from her rightful place, and I am old-fashioned enough to fight to the last

against any measure which will take her further from her God-appointed task and duty."

Senator Brown's eloquence was duly appreciated by all present, but it did not win him any more votes than a plea made by him earlier in the day to defeat an "80-cent gas" measure for the people of Brooklyn. And unless he can think of some new scheme or dig up some more criminal charge against woman than that of "peopling the heavens with stars and the seas with living things," the Suffrage measure will pass this session, and New York will have another referendum in 1917.

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NEW ZEALAND

THE STATE AND DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

It is some three years since the medical inspection of children in State schools became law, and gradually a system is being brought in which will have far-reaching effects. The nature of the system desired is shown by a recent experiment of the Minister for Education, the Hon. J. A. Hanan, regarding children of defective physique. Dr. E. H. Macdonald, the Auckland lady inspector of schools, has been brought to Wellington to conduct this experiment, which consists of a State-taught class for the physically defective children of the largest State school there. In the ordinary way, parents have been advised of the defects of their children, and further action has devolved on them. Free treatment involves an expense too great for Government to face at present, but the Minister is considering a compromise in the matter of free physical culture classes out of school hours, and is trying the effect in this one school. Dr. Macdonald examines each child, charting its particular case and needs for the instructor, who deals as much as possible on individual lines. No gymnastic apparatus is used; the aim at present is to teach correct breathing and carriage, etc. Swimming is also taught. It may be remembered that New Zealand has inaugurated an exceptionally good and thorough system of teaching physical culture, a staff of experts, both men and women, supervising and training the ordinary teachers for their drill work.

TEACHING OF SEX PHYSIOLOGY.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union in their annual convention just concluded resolved to suggest to the National Council of Education (constituted last year and containing four lady members) the appointment of a qualified teacher, preferably a woman doctor, to deal with sex physiology in the public schools. This question had been considered in New Zealand before, but no conclusion had been reached THE NEW BOARD OF TRADE.

In February last the Board of Trade, which was legislated into being last session, took definite form. Three gentlemen of experience have been nominated, with the Minister of Industries and Commerce as President. One of these members has been for many years Conciliation Commissioner for Wellington, under New Zealand's far-famed Industrial Arbitration and Conciliation Act, and the others have had experience commending them alike to the workers and the growers and manufacturers. The functions of the Board will be to inquire into and advise the Governor upon all matters of trade, unreasonably high prices, infringements of commercial laws, opening of markets, and the general encouraging and stimulating of trade activity. The Board begins operation in April.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL RESERVE AND NEW OCCUPATIONS.

The Women's Branch of the National Reserve is being taken up with increasing enthusiasm. No such need of women in municipal service and field or general farm work as that in Britain is experienced in New Zealand, but some inquiries are coming in from the country about women gardeners, while, owing to the work of the National Reserve, an excellent beginning has been made in Nelson, one of the chief fruit-growing centres. Serious loss would have resulted there this season had not women been found to take in the fruit at once; and as the training instituted for fruit-packing has turned out workers already judged equal to men, there is no doubt that a new and well-paid industry is henceforth open to women. The innovation of girls in banks is so successful that here, too, there is a permanent opening in view. Outside the work of the Reserve, many farmers' daughters and sisters have been helping busily on farms this season. A inquiry

has just come in from the master bakers in Auckland, who are hampered by so many employees enlisting. If they can get women to take these men's places the Auckland bakers promise equal pay for equal work.

WOMEN'S ATTITUDE TO CONSCRIPTION.

The question of compulsion is still before the public. Many requisitions are sent in from bodies and gatherings that compulsory service should be brought in, and opinion is sharply divided. But, on the whole, the higher sentiment of the nation is set against it; the great majority of leading women are unfavourable to it; the Press, for the most part, advises the trying of every possible expedient before voluntarism is abandoned, and the Government earnestly desires to avoid any necessity for it. A Government scheme for recruiting with the help of local bodies and municipal effort is in operation, and so successfully that it is widely felt that no compulsory measures need ever be resorted to in New Zealand.

How Far the Women's Movement Must Learn Afresh.

By HERMANN FERNAU.

This article appeared in *l'Humanité* and in *Frauenbestrebungen* (Switzerland).

Since the beginning of the world-war much has been said and written about learning afresh. According to the standpoint taken upon political and moral questions each one has a different idea of this learning.

With regard to the women's movement, various points could be raised. When the war is over, will it enter on a new career? Will the artificial truce be preserved, or will the middle-class women and the Socialist women again squabble about trifles? Will women have learnt, as many people hope, to admit that their movement is a danger for the manhood of the nation? And will they in consequence renounce their claims?

To-day it may be safely prophesied that there will be a women's movement after as before the war, and that it will carry on its own policy as before. In one respect there will be a fresh start, and as it is a subject which will occupy the whole of European politics for decades, it might become the rallying ground for a freshly directed, unexpectedly powerful pressing forward of the women's movement.

Whatever may be the end of the world-war, it will have caused so much misery and ruin, so much horror and loathing in the minds of men and women, that in the near future all the intelligence and goodwill and all the moral force of humanity will unite in the universal demand to put the peace of the world on a sure basis. But it has always been women who, without distinction of party, class, or age, have been the most outspoken enemies of war. For them, peace is not only a question of reason, but of existence and feeling. We can understand war-fever in men, but in women it seems as much more repulsive as drunkenness does in woman than in man.

There would be little object in asking whether up to the present the women's movement might have prevented war. We have seen the breakdown of all the movements which might have been expected to hinder war—*e.g.*, Pacifism, Socialism, Monism, Liberalism, and all the others. No more could fairly be expected from the women's movement, which has hitherto been very limited in extent, than from the million-strong party which was pledged up to the hilt against war, and which by tradition and principle was a democratic party.

But the future will demand more from women. The historic events of the last days of July, 1914, proved that the women's movement had such a lowly status in the State that no one had to pay any attention to it. Woman, who in normal times had no say in law or politics, was of course ignored at the moment when force was proclaimed ruler of Europe. Never was she so much a negligible quantity as in those dark days.

Can and will that be changed? Can it be expected that in the near future the women's movement will be so strengthened that if ever in the future war conflicts should threaten, it could step forward as a weighty factor, as a hindrance to war?

It will and must be able to do so. But only if it concentrates for the present on promoting the conditions which make for permanent peace. Man's feeling of patriotism and for war is different from woman's. The traditions of bygone centuries fill him with enthusiasm, and he is apt to consider war as a sacred necessity for life and progress; he still thinks war useful for his country and for humanity. The large membership of

army and navy leagues, the wide circulation of writings like those of Bernhardt and other Chauvinists, prove that there was a great party which did not feel war to be the evil of evils. If it did not actually wish for it, it did not shrink from it, and emphasised its inevitability. In face of this well-organised party, which enjoyed the support of eminent men of learning, the pacifists remained helpless.

The women's movement took no notice of this development. It was entirely taken up with its own narrower problems. It was, indeed, instinctively peaceful; but, like most other reform movements of the last ten years, did not believe in an immediate danger of war. Everyone, including the women, was lulled in a false security. The small group of people of insight which pointed out the senselessness and danger of the armed peace was laughed at or ignored.

This is the point where the women's movement must learn afresh. The world-war will have taught them that there is a great problem in Europe which, unless it is successfully solved, will condemn all movements for freedom and reform to stagnation and sterility; that problem is that of world peace: a world which is not dependent on sword and cannon, but on the will to right and the universal application of the rules of good neighbourly relations.

So the women's movement must begin to occupy itself with foreign policy—a sphere which has hitherto been left to men and diplomats.

Here we see quite a new possibility of development for the women's movement. Suppose women were to begin a propaganda to-morrow in the country: Our first demand is world peace. Organise in large numbers, then we shall be powerful enough to convince Governments that they must reckon with us. Men have shown themselves unreliable in the fight against war; man alone cannot free the world from the scourge of war. We must help him. The more numerous and determined we are, the sooner shall we be listened to.

If we imagine the leading women of a country speaking thus, the effect would soon be apparent. The women who hitherto turned up their nose when they were told about emancipation, Suffrage, equality of the sexes, will now answer the appeal enthusiastically; for what woman has not suffered from the war? Even those who have not had relations actively engaged have suffered enormously morally. And what woman does not wish ardently that war may never return? If the women's movement takes the line suggested, one can prophesy for it a brilliant future. The numerous advantages which it would gain from this learning afresh can be grouped as follows:—

It would gain a great increase of numbers; it would become united, for Moderates, Radicals, Socialists, Denominationalists, etc., would agree on this common object. Those who would be attracted now would be gained for the other objects of the women's movement, and the whole movement would gain in weight and respect in the country, and be a force to be reckoned with in political life. Another and more important consideration is, all social reforms carried without women or in spite of them are doomed to failure, and in the same way women can have little prospect of success if they embark on a stream apart from the main current on which men reformers will be embarking. The women's movement has necessarily brought them into conflict with the majority of men. The conflict between men's and women's interests will, of course, not cease, but it can be happily bridged over so that men and women fighting side by side for a happier future for humanity will not feel instinctive hostility. For even the very men of whom I said above that they were keen on war are not so all the time, but only at times. The men of the belligerent countries demonstrated against war three days before its outbreak. Only when they thought their country in danger did the change come.

So, if the women to-morrow work openly and resolutely for peace, not merely sentimentally by protests, the whole world will understand that it is their natural province and their sublime right. When the humblest peasant girl feels that she has a direct interest in the preservation of peace, the humblest labourer will not be able to ridicule her when she signs a petition claiming women's right to have a voice in foreign policy, for he will also have learnt afresh.

If the women help us to combat the madness of the armament makers and the fanatics for world-power, until we have destroyed those ideas which gave birth to the world-war, then the coming peace (and with it women's hopes) will be more firmly established in the world than any peace we have yet known, for hitherto it was only latent war.

The women's movement will work for peace, or it will cease to exist.

SHEEHY SKEFFINGTON—SUFFRAGIST.

An irreparable loss has been sustained by the cause of women's freedom in the tragic death of Francis Sheehy Skeffington. His was a nature incapable of accepting any of the great world wrongs. The subjection of race, of class, of sex, were to him alike intolerable. And so wide was his breadth of view that he was never led into tolerance of any one of these wrongs by his championship of some other right.

A keen Irish nationalist, he nevertheless opposed every section of the Irish movement on the Woman Suffrage issue. It may be said of him, as of few other men of our time, that he saw the cause of women's freedom in its true proportion. And what he saw he put into words and into action. It was no easy thing for Sheehy Skeffington and his noble wife to stand out from their friends and relations and identify themselves with the despised votes-for-women movement. It meant ostracism, isolation, ridicule, and abuse. But of these things neither he nor his wife counted aught in comparison with loyalty to their ideas.

During the seven years of vigorous agitation that preceded the present war he gave of his very best to the women's cause. He organised meetings, he spoke, he wrote articles, and he edited (after James Cousins left Ireland) the well-known weekly Suffrage paper, the *Irish Citizen*. He was by profession a journalist, and in this paper his courage, his wit, his tolerance, had equal play.

Many people who did not know Sheehy Skeffington probably think of him as an extremist. If to be absolutely resolute and fearless, to recognise injustice in whatever shape it masquerades, and to expose it, is to be an extremist, then it is a true epithet to apply to him. But if by an extremist we mean one who fails to see the good in those who differ from him, or is incapable of working with them, or who wants to carry out his ideas by violent means, then Sheehy Skeffington was the reverse of an extremist. Sheehy Skeffington's *Irish Citizen* was the one Suffrage paper which combined every section of thought in the Suffrage world; militant and constitutional, Protestant, Catholic, and Agnostic, all obtained the hospitality of his columns.

Early in April—a fortnight before the trouble came—he wrote a letter to the English Press in which he foretold the coming storm. This letter the papers refused to publish, but in his own organ he wrote with despair of the threatened trouble and of the events which in his view were provoking it. A life-long pacifist, absolutely opposed to the use of violence, he never at any time possessed firearms or weapon of any sort, and for speeches in defence of his views and in opposition to conscription he had suffered imprisonment. When, therefore, the trouble came, he was concerned to prevent violence. At risk of his life he went out to rescue an English officer who had been wounded; and on the day when he was arrested he was pasting up posters calling upon the citizens of Dublin to unite with him in putting down looting.

This is no place to speak in detail of the circumstances of his end, except to remember the bravery, simplicity, and forbearance with which he met his death. May his noble spirit help us who still live to work together in harmony to attain the great ends for which he strove so valiantly and so well!

F. W. PETHICK LAWRENCE.

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